

This amendment is a result of the discussion at the interview and is intended to place this case in condition for allowance.

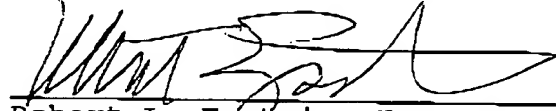
Claims 16, 20, 22 and 24 have been amended to overcome the objections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, to correct minor typographical errors and to highlight the difference between the claimed invention and the cited art combination.

The claims stand rejected as unpatentable over a proposed combination of Shafto and Zizinia. As discussed during the interview, Shafto is a hanger transport device meant to be oriented vertically and hence there is no reason to modify the Shafto structure to include an inclined section which would prevent the hangers from falling off if the device were secured to a vertical surface, and hence oriented horizontally, as taught by Zizinia. In order to emphasize this, claims 16 and 20 have been amended to require means for mounting the base on a vertical surface.

The patent to Higby was also discussed at the interview. A model of the Higby device was used to demonstrate that, unlike applicant's hanger holder, the Higby device is not intended to hold empty hangers and is ineffective for that purpose.

It is believed that this case is now in condition for allowance. If any matters remain outstanding, please call the undersigned as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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